

# State Dept. Checks 175 for Red Links

CPYRGHT BY WILLARD EDWARDS  
(Chicago Tribune Press Service)

250 Serious Cases

Washington, March 3—The state department, shaken by persistent reports of communist infiltration in its world-wide apparatus, has begun a top-secret review of the security status of some of its most trusted employees.

The security files of 175 officers in Washington and in the foreign service are being studied by a small task force which has been instructed to proceed with the utmost caution and under conditions of great secrecy.

The odious word "investigation" has been avoided in the orders for this scrutiny. The files are not even being "re-evaluated," it was stressed. They are being "reexamined."

## Senators Suspect Stall

The inquiry was undertaken with great reluctance, according to authoritative Capitol hill sources, and only after a series of recent disclosures aroused apprehension in the Johnson administration about the possibility of a spy scandal in a Presidential campaign year.

The state department has been resisting, with considerable success, the efforts of the Senate internal security subcommittee to probe lax security in the department's bureau of security and consular affairs. Senators became convinced that the stalling tactics they encountered were designed to prevent a report until after the November elections.

A month ago, a high state department official was confronted by the subcommittee with demands for information about an 8-year-old report which listed more than 800 potential security risks in the department.

Of the 800, three-fourths had communist associations which made them suspect as potential purveyors of information to a foreign government. Of these, approximately 250 were described as serious cases in which the evidence was substantial. One-half of the 250 occupied "high-level positions in the department or in the field," the report stated.

The report was dated June 27, 1956, and was drafted by the late Scott McLeod, then security director. He urged his state department superiors to take urgent action, recalling the plight of the Truman administration when it was faced with the Alger Hiss spy scandal in 1948.

## 175 Still Employed

Senate investigators wanted to know how many of the 800, and particularly of the 250 serious cases, were still on the state department payroll, and whether any efforts have been made to investigate them, as urged by McLeod. They were refused information at the time.

It now has been established that 175 of those listed as potential security risks in 1956 are now employed. Their files are being "reexamined."

This secret review was not ordered, however, until more evidence leaked out concerning subversion in American embassies abroad. As Washington sources disclosed these episodes, a Polish agent who defected to the west in 1961 began making charges which were sensationalized by a New York newspaper.

## Reports "Incredible"

Stripped of some exaggeration in published reports, here is the unvarnished tale gathered by congressional investigators and confirmed by intelligence authorities.

Six diplomats and ten marine guards, assigned to the United States embassy in Warsaw during 1958 and 1959, were compromised by women communist agents. Whether any secrets were lost as a result remains undetermined.

The state department initially branded as incredible the reports submitted by United States agents concerning this incident. It finally conceded their authenticity, subjected all those involved to lie detector tests and came up with a verdict that no classified information had been given away. Five of the diplomats were transferred from Poland, but are still with the state department. The sixth was asked to resign because the results of his tests were inconclusive.

## Embarrassing Photos

Pretty Polish girls invaded the sleeping quarters of the 10 embassy guards, under communist orders, according to the evidence. The six American diplomats were enticed individually in trysts arranged at various hideaways around Warsaw. The Communists reportedly took embarrassing photographs of some of them and their companions.

A Russian intelligence agent also seduced the wife of an American foreign service officer while she was traveling in the Soviet Union and her husband was on duty in Warsaw. The apparent purpose in compromising her was to blackmail her or her husband at some time in the future.

## Steal Safe Combinations

When the wife returned to Warsaw, she did not disclose the affair to her husband or anyone else. But American intelligence learned of it thru a Polish informant. Wife and husband were confronted with the report and there was a scene, but the diplomat forgave his wife and their marriage continued.

Communists burglarized the American embassy and stole a list of safe combinations. The state department eventually ordered all of the combinations changed.

About a year later, Irvin N. Scarbeck, the embassy's second secretary, began a liaison with a 22-year-old girl. Communist agents then blackmailed him into giving them secret United States documents. Discovered, he received a 30-year sentence for espionage, reduced last fall to 10 years because of his cooperation with the government.

## Polish Agent Defects

The most recent revelations to alarm the state department came from Michal Goleniewski, who came to the United States in 1961 after having been in contact with American intelligence agents since 1958. He was described as a high-ranking operative in Russia's secret intelligence branch, the KGB, until his defection.

Goleniewski, 41, gave much information to United States intelligence which was turned over to the Federal Bureau of Investigation and fully checked. He is reliably credited with having caused the downfall of important Red agents abroad.

Goleniewski, released from custody, gave the New York newspaper additional information which Washington sources said was "not consistent" with

the information he had given this government.

These published allegations contained a charge that more than a million dollars furnished by the central intelligence agency had been split by the KGB, the Italian Communist party, and the American Communist party.

The defector also was reported to have stated that the KGB had been able to penetrate all American embassies in important cities abroad and "every United States agency except the FBI."

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